

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph [042] with the following paragraph:

[042] Related U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/035,747, which has previously been incorporated by reference, describes an exemplary floating point unit in which floating point status information is encoded in the representations of the results generated thereby. The exemplary floating point unit includes a plurality of functional units, including an adder unit, a multiplier unit, a divider unit, a square root unit, a maximum/minimum unit, a comparator unit, and a unit for forcing floating point status information to selected values, all of which operate under control of functional unit control signals provided by a control unit. The present application is directed to an exemplary unit for forcing floating point status information to selected values that can be used as another functional unit or as part of the aforementioned units in the floating point unit described in related U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/035,747.